
INVITATION

16TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF CICT/COCTI

THEOLOGY AFTER *VERITATIS GAUDIUM*

29 - 31 May 2022

Lisbon PORTUGAL

Dear Colleagues,

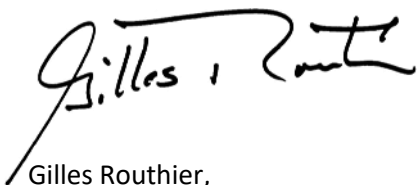
For the past two years, the pandemic has kept us apart. As a result, we have twice had to postpone our general meeting originally scheduled for spring 2020. Although the situation has not completely returned to normal, we can now hope to hold it this spring, in 2022. However, it will have a special character since it will allow the participation of both those who can be present in Lisbon and those who cannot go and so will want to participate remotely. Indeed, for the first time in its history, the CICT/COCTI will hold a general assembly in hybrid mode, that is, both face-to-face and remotely, online. This format, which uses two modes of participation, naturally entails many organizational and scheduling constraints. We want to make the best of the situation, being convinced that the disadvantages inherent in the hybrid mode are less harmful to the life of our association than a new postponement.

Since our last meeting, the situation in the world has changed a lot: the health crisis and pandemic, the accentuation of the climate crisis, political unrest and crisis of democracy, the war in Ukraine, not to mention the forgotten wars that continue to divide peoples and submit many to cruel oppression. It is in this context that we will question the future of world theology after *Veritatis gaudium*.

The Faculdade de Teologia of the Universidade Católica Portuguesa offered to welcome us and to be the host of this event. I thank them very sincerely and, already, I look forward to seeing them again. I therefore warmly invite you, on behalf of our Portuguese friends, to this important meeting of the CICT/COCTI. It will be an opportunity to deepen the ties that unite us and to reflect together on the challenges posed to theological education in today's world. Therefore, our next appointment, whether in person in Lisbon or online, is from 29 to 31 May 2022.

This Assembly is open to representatives of faculties of theology or departments of religious studies of universities affiliated with the IFCU, as well as to the heads of any other theological institution that shares the objectives of the CICT/COCTI. I ask you to forward this invitation to theological training institutions that may be concerned, since we do not have a list of these institutions.

We look forward to your presence and participation.



Gilles Routhier,
President of the CICT/COCTI
Faculty of Theology and Religious Sciences, Laval University, Quebec

TOPICS OF THE 16TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

THEOLOGY AFTER VERITATIS GAUDIUM

In 2018, in his Apostolic Constitution *Veritatis Gaudium*, Pope Francis made this assessment:

Theology and Christian culture have lived up to their mission whenever they were ready to take risks and remain faithful on the borderline. “The questions of our people, their suffering, their battles, their dreams, their trials, their worries possess an interpretational value that we cannot ignore if we want to take the principle of the Incarnation seriously. Their wondering helps us to wonder ourselves, their questions question us. All this helps us to delve into the mystery of the Word of God, the Word that requires and asks that we dialogue, that we enter into communion” (#4).

He proposes a definition of theology: “an evangelical hermeneutics to better understand life, the world and human beings” (# 4). Also, in this Apostolic Constitution, almost 40 years after *Sapientia cristiana*, the pope calls for a “wise and courageous renewal demanded by the missionary transformation of a Church that ‘goes forth’” (# 3). In addition, it sets out “the fundamental criteria for a renewal and revival of the contribution of ecclesiastical studies to a Church of missionary outreach” (#4).

As theologians, we want to take up this challenge of practicing theology in context and not content ourselves with doing theology detached from the questions of the contemporary world. The elements that characterize the various contexts in which our theological practices take place are numerous: a situation of injustice due to the gap between rich and poor, a situation of social fractures due to wars, a situation of social tensions due to migratory flows, a situation of conflicts following identity movements that react to religious pluralism, a situation of opposition between economic development and respect for nature, etc. In short, we are all called to develop a practice of theology in a fractured world, marked by oppositions and conflicts between various groups, situations often marked by violence. To one degree or another, this characterizes the context in which our practice of theology takes place.

It is in this context that the colloquium to be held as part of the next CICT/COCTI General Assembly in 2022 aims to take stock of the practice of theology in a fractured world. Three years after the Apostolic Constitution *Veritatis gaudium* and sixty years after the opening of Vatican II which, in the eyes of Francis “has revolutionized, to a certain extent, the status of theology, the way of doing and thinking of believers,” it seems appropriate to us to take stock of the practice of theology on the various continents. The years following the Council saw several publications exploring the consequences of the Vatican on theological practice and on the theological shift called for by the Council.¹

¹ Cf. Patrick Burke, H. de Lubac, J. Daniélou, Y. Congar, E. Schillebeeckx, J.-B. Metz, C. Davis, A. Schmemmann, G. Lindbeck, J. Sittler, *Théologie d'aujourd'hui et de demain*, Paris, Les Éditions du Cerf, 1967, 219 p.; Yves M.-J. Congar, *Situation et tâches présentes de la théologie*, Paris, Les Éditions du Cerf, 1967, 158 p.; François Houtart, H. E. Tödt, G. Palmade, J. Ladrière, M.-D. Chenu, A. Astier, M. Faessler, *Recherche interdisciplinaire et théologie*, Paris, Les Éditions du Cerf, 1970, 140 p.; François Refoulé, C.-J. Geffré, J.-M. Pothier, C. Duquoc, *Avenir de la théologie*, Paris, Les Éditions du Cerf, 1968, 142 p.; Laurence K. Shook, Guy-M. Bertrand (codir.), *La théologie du renouveau*, I et II, Montréal et Paris, Les Éditions Fides et du Cerf, 1968, 376 p. et 375 p.

Thirty years after the close of the Council, the research department of the Institut Catholique of Paris wanted to draw up an assessment of Catholic theology as it is practiced in large socio-cultural groups. This enterprise, directed by Mons. Joseph Doré, offered a series of conferences held in Paris between 1996 and 1999.² The book aims to present a state of world theology thirty years after Vatican II by making the voices of the various continents heard. Since then, apart from the report presented by *INSeCT* in 2017,³ to my knowledge no report has been made. It therefore seems important to us to take stock of theology after the Apostolic Constitution *Veritatis gaudium* in light of its practices in the various contexts of our world. It also seems to us that it is up to the Conference of Catholic Theological Institutions (CICT/COCTI) to contribute to the reflection by proposing such an assessment. In this perspective, we propose to draw up an initial assessment of the current practice of theology on the various continents. Relying on the institutional network represented by the CICT/COCTI, we wish to make the voices of the various continents heard.

The contexts in which our theological practices take place are not merely an external backdrop from which we extract ourselves at the moment in which we undertake our theological work. These situations of fragmentation and division do not remain at the door of the classrooms or on the threshold of our work offices.

Our colloquium, without neglecting the presentation of a factual portrait (e.g. the numerical evolution of faculties and student groups, but also the qualitative changes observed⁴), will mainly want to indicate the major shifts observed in the practice of theology, the major emerging trends and the far-reaching developments that are emerging. It will want to take stock of the place (in universities or in seminaries?) and the status of theology (in institutions linked to the Church and/or recognized by the State), its place in society and culture, its relationship to other sciences, to the Church and to other Christian denominations. We will question its methods and the pedagogies which have been implemented, its internationalization and the development of networks and interdisciplinary groupings, the renewal of its study programs (the new questions which are emerging in the curricula, the specializations, the development new of areas, etc.).

The General Assembly will take place from 29 to 31 May 2022 in Lisbon, either in person in Portugal or online.

As is the rule with CICT/COCTI, the work will take place in the three official languages of the association, namely French, Spanish or English. Naturally, we will not deprive ourselves of the Portuguese sounds of our hosts.

Everyone is welcome!

² Cf. Joseph Doré (under the direction of), *Le devenir de la théologie catholique mondiale depuis Vatican II. 1965-1999*, « Sciences théologiques et religieuses » 10, Beauchesne, Paris, 2000, 466 pages.

³ https://www.insecttheology.org/files/ugd/855319_07716e73de104cd9ad91f66ecbdd002f.pdf

⁴ The profile of the faculties and their formation; who are the students? What are their interests, where do they come from and where are they going?

From Saturday 28 May, arrival in Lisbon

- ❖ Arrival in Lisbon and check-in at the places of residence.
- ❖ For meals, a large choice of restaurants is available in the area for those who want it.

Sunday 29 May - PM

Registration and official opening

For those attending in person:

Eucharist presided over by His Eminence Patriarch Manuel Clemente, Archbishop of Lisbon

3 :30 pm

Appointments at the Universidade Católica Portuguesa:

- Place : « Sala de Exposições - Universidade Católica Portuguesa »
- Registration and payment of registration fees: €80.
- Picking-up the documents necessary for the General Assembly
- Payment of participation fees for the excursion and the closing dinner on 1st June (for those who wish to register: €100).

5 :00 pm Opening session - « Sala de Exposições - Universidade Católica Portuguesa »

- Word of welcome from the president of the CICT/COCTI
Presentation of the theme of the Assembly and general information – Prof. Gilles Routhier
- Word of welcome from the General Secretary of the FIUC – Prof. François Mabile
- Message for the dean of the Faculdade de Teologia de l'Universidade Católica Portuguesa – Prof. Ana Maria C. M. Jorge
- Welcome to the Universidade Católica Portuguesa – Prof. Isabel Capeloa Gil, rector and president of the FIUC

7 :00 pm Opening reception

« Sala de Exposições - Universidade Católica Portuguesa »

Universidade Católica Portuguesa

- 2:00 pm **First session: Theological practices in Europe**
(90 min.) Six presentations of 15 minutes each:
Theological practices in the Pontifical universities (Rome)
Theological practices in the English-speaking area (+ Leuven)
Theological practices in the German-speaking area (+ Netherlands)
Theological practices in the French-speaking area
Theological practices in Southern Europe: Portuguese, Spanish and Italian-speaking areas
Theological Practices in Eastern Europe
- 3:00 pm Break
- 4:00 pm Discussion
- 4:30 pm **Second session: Theological practices in Africa**
Two presentations of 20 minutes each:
Theological Practices in French-speaking area
Theological Practices in English-speaking area
- 5:00 pm Discussion
- 5:30 pm Break
- 6:15 pm **General Assembly (First Part)**
President's report
Reports of the Regional Assemblies
Transformation of IFCU sector groups
Modifications to the Statutes
Preparation of the second part of the General Assembly
- 7:30 pm End of the day and evening meal

« Sala de Exposições - Universidade Católica Portuguesa »

Universidade Católica Portuguesa

Afternoon	Third Session: Theological practices in the Americas
2:00 pm	Four presentations of 15 minutes each: Theological practices in the English-speaking area Theological practices in the Portuguese-speaking area Theological practices in the Spanish-speaking area Theological practices in the French-speaking area
3:00 pm	Break
3:30 pm	Discussion
4:00 pm	Fourth Session: theological practices in Asia Three presentation of 20 minutes each: Theological practices in the Middle East Theological practices in the Far East (China, Taiwan, South Korea, Japan) Theological practices in India
5:00 pm	Discussion
5:30 pm	Break
6:00 pm	General Assembly (second part) Theme and place of the next Assembly Election of the members of the Council How to share resources, encourage joint research projects, increase collaboration between our institutions and develop the network? How can we improve our organization? You are invited to prepare proposals that we can discuss during the Assembly. * Only members whose home university is regularly affiliated with IFCU have the right to vote at the General Assembly. The others have the right to speak, but without the right to vote.
7:30 pm	Closing Banquet

Wednesday 1st June

Excursion???

Departure

INFORMATION

The General Assembly to be held in Lisbon (Portugal) is organized by the Faculdade de Teologia, Universidade Católica Portuguesa. A local committee is taking care of the preparation as well as the implementation of the various activities.

The study sessions will take place on the campus of the Universidade Católica Portuguesa, in Lisbon (<https://www.ucp.pt/about-catolica/headquarters-and-centres/lisboa>)

The Assembly will begin on Sunday, 29 May, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. and end on the evening of Tuesday, 31 May, after the closing banquet (or on Wednesday, 1st June, for those taking the excursion).

Participants coming from abroad, due to the time lag, will be able to arrive from Saturday 28 May, 2022.

Departures are scheduled from Wednesday 1st June (if you are not taking part in the excursion) or from Thursday 2 June, 2022, unless you want to extend your stay in Lisbon.

ARRIVAL IN LISBON

In Lisbon, at the end of May, the weather is mild and sunny and the average temperature varies between 14°C and 23°C.

The airport is located near the city center and it is easy to get to your place of residence by taxi, metro or bus. The cost of taxi rides in Lisbon is relatively inexpensive.

<https://www.google.pt/maps/dir/Universidade+Cat%C3%B3lica,+Lisboa/Aeroporto+de+Lisboa,+Alameda+das+Comunidades+Portuguesas,+Lisboa/@38.7486101,-9.1665758,16z/data=!4m14!4m13!1m5!1m1!1s0xd19331f2ede451b:0x8c9ea734d4a2cd3c!2m2!1d-9.16542!2d38.748206!1m5!1m1!1s0xd19324616d90183:0xa66a53e58036d46!2m2!1d-9.1353667!2d38.7755936!3e0>

INFORMATION

ACCOMMODATIONS

Accommodations are at your expense and, except in exceptional cases, in a hotel. You must make your reservations yourself. Here we provide you with the list of hotels near the campus. To get a better price, make your reservations as soon as possible. The city of Lisbon is highly sought after by tourists. If you delay, you will have more difficulty finding the room or price you want.

Hotels	Reservations on the hotel web page
Hotel Açores Lisboa	https://hotel-acoeres-lisboa.hotel-ds.com/pt/
Hotel Residencial João XXI	https://joaoxxiresidencial.com/
Hotel Roma	https://www.hotelroma.pt/en/
Hotel Vip Executive Zurique	https://vipexecutivezuriquelisbon.h-rez.com
Hotel Vip Executive Entrecampos	https://www.viphotels.com/pt/Hoteis/VIP-Executive-Entrecampos/Sobre-Hotel.aspx
Hotel Vip Inn Berna	http://www.hotelvipinnbernalisboa.com
Sana Reno Hotel	https://reno.sanahotels.com
Sana Executive Hotel	https://executive.sanahotels.com

It often happens that you get a better price if you book through Booking:

<https://www.booking.com>

I N F O R M A T I O N

REGISTRATION

The cost of registration for the General Assembly for those who will be traveling to Lisbon is €80 to be paid on site when registering with the COCTI representative (a receipt will be given to you). This registration is mandatory and includes:

- ✓ Participation in the meeting (from Sunday afternoon to Tuesday late evening), including
- ✓ Lunch and evening meals (except the closing banquet on Tuesday evening) taken on the Universidade Católica Portuguesa campus and coffee breaks.
- ✓ Administrative fees⁵.

⁵ Participants in the closing banquet and the excursion and will have to pay the sum of €100 when registering. Those who only participate in the banquet, but who do not participate in the excursion pay an amount of 40 €.

INFORMATION

All other costs are the responsibility of the participants:

- Lodging
- Excursion on 1st June including festive meal: 100 €. Payment made at time of registration.

The registration form is attached to this document. You are requested to complete it and return it to the following address, COCTI.ft@ucp.pt before 1st of May 2022.

VISA

A member of the European Union, Portugal is also part of the Schengen area which allows the free movement of people between the countries of this area. You will find, by clicking on this link, the list of countries whose citizens need or do not need entry visas:

<https://www.vistos.mne.pt/en/short-stay-visas-schengen/general-information/who-needs-a-visa>

HEALTH

Being covered by health and hospitalization insurance is essential so that you can fully enjoy your stay in Portugal without worrying about the unexpected!

CURRENCY EXCHANGE

The currency in use is the euro €.

WIRELESS INTERNET

On campus, participants will have access to a wireless internet service (Wi-Fi) thanks to the service eduroam.